

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A method for identifying a substance capable of disrupting microtubule organising centre (MTOC) integrity, which method comprises

contacting an Asp polypeptide or homologue thereof, or fragment thereof capable of forming and/or maintaining MTOCs in the absence of the substance, with a candidate substance in the presence of components required for MTOC formation and microtubule nucleation therefrom, and determining whether the substance disrupts MTOC integrity.

Claim 2 (Original): A method according to claim 1 wherein said components comprise KI-extracted centrosomes and an Asp-depleted soluble cellular extract.

Claim 3 (Original): A method according to claim 1 wherein said components comprise a partially purified centrosome preparation and tubulin.

Claim 4 (Original): A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said Asp polypeptide is as shown in SEQ I.D. No. 1 or a fragment or derivative thereof capable of stimulating the formation of and/or maintaining MTOCs.

Claim 5 (Original): A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said Asp polypeptide is a mammalian homologue of the polypeptide shown in SEQ I.D. No. 1, or a fragment or derivative thereof capable of stimulating the formation of and/or maintaining MTOCs.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 further comprising administering a said substance, which has been determined to disrupt MTOC integrity, to a cell and determining whether the substance inhibits mitosis in the cell.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A substance identified by the method of any one of claims 1 to 6.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A substance capable of binding to an Asp polypeptide or homologue or fragment thereof for use in a method of disrupting MTOC integrity.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A substance according to claim 8 which is an antibody.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A polypeptide fragment of an Asp polypeptide or homologue thereof, which fragment is not capable of restoring microtubule nucleation centre organising activity to an Asp-depleted extract, for use in a method of disrupting MTOC integrity.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide according to claim 10 for use in disrupting MTOC integrity.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A nucleic acid vector comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 11.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): Use of an Asp polypeptide or homologue thereof, or a fragment thereof capable of stimulating formation of and/or maintaining MTOCs, in an assay for identifying a substance capable of disrupting MTOC integrity.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A substance according to claim 8 or 9 for use in a method of disrupting MTOC integrity.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A process comprising the steps of:

- (a) performing the method according to any one of claims 1 to 5[6]; and
- (b) preparing a quantity of those one or more substances identified as being capable of disrupting MTOC integrity.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A process comprising the steps of:

- (a) performing the method according to any one of claims 1 to 5[[6]]; and
- (b) preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more substances identified as being capable of disrupting MTOC integrity.